

HOUSE BILL 2871

By Hurley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71,
Chapter 5, Part 3, relative to food stamps.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The commissioner of human services is directed to conduct a summer study examining the distribution of food stamps on a sliding scale when a recipient's income increased to an amount where food stamps are no longer required. The study will determine the efficiency of the current law, dictating that a recipient's income at the maximum amount provides for a twenty-five (25%) percent decrease in benefits every three (3) months. The commissioner should look to reforming current food stamp rules and regulations as it relates to the turnaround of recipient's income increasing as their calculated need for benefits decreases. The study should examine the monthly income fluctuation of recipients and determine a reasonable manner to match the recipient's need for food stamps with the recipient's income. The commissioner shall consult with the various state departments and agencies, including the department of agriculture, and any other interested stakeholders. This study shall include a comprehensive review of the distribution of food stamps and how often the income is monitored by the department. The department shall report the results of the study to the senate health and welfare committee and the health and human resources committee of the house of representatives on or before January 15, 2013.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring